

DECEMBER

at the

CALIFORNIA ACADEMY OF SCIENCES

DECEMBER MEETING

DATE: Wednesday evening, December 13
TIME: 7:30 p.m. and again at approximately 8:40 p.m.
PLACE: May Treat Morrison Auditorium
SPEAKERS: Robert T. and Dorothy B. Orr
SUBJECTS: "MUSHROOM HUNTERS"

For a quarter of a century, Dr. Orr, Associate Director of the Academy, and his wife have enjoyed a rewarding experience in the field of mycology — that branch of biology dealing with fungi. What started out as an admittedly simple interest in only the edible types grew into an aesthetic and scientific hobby. Classifying these odd and unusual forms of plant life — noting their shape, beauty, odor and color — became a titillating avocation. As a result, they have explored and photographed across the United States and Canada and gone as far afield as the Arctic, Mexico, and even to the Galapagos Islands for further information about their poisonous and non-poisonous "prey".

The Orrs are authors of "Mushrooms and Other Common Fungi of the Bay Region" and have a companion volume devoted to Southern California in press at the University of California. An article, "Puffballs and Related Fungi" is slated to appear in the January-February issue of PACIFIC DISCOVERY.

Their December 13 talk will be illustrated with a series of color slides.

MORRISON PLANETARIUM

"PLANETARIUM ON PARADE", that special sky show which puts audiences "in the know" as to how the star projector can create comets, shooting stars, northern lights, trips to the moon, will continue in the Theatre of the Stars through December 16. Beginning December 17:

"THE STAR OF BETHLEHEM", Morrison's annual holiday show which is being presented for the 15th consecutive year. As if by magic, go back through time to that wondrous night when Christ was born in Bethlehem.

Performances daily at 2:00 with evening shows, Wednesday through Sunday, at 8:30. Extra matinees on Saturday and Sundays at 3:30. The Planetarium is closed on Monday and Tuesday nights, on Christmas Eve, Christmas Day and on New Year's Eve. This show will continue through January 1.

Admission: Adults, \$1.00. Students, service men and children under 16, 50c.

MORRISON AUDITORIUM

"THE SEA OF CORTEZ", an hour-long documentary film produced by the Academy, is screened on Saturdays and Sundays at 12:45, 2:15 and 3:45 p.m. Admission: Adults, \$1.00. Children (under 16), students and service men, 50c.

SPECIAL EXHIBITS

From the Academy Collections: "KAKAPO (New Zealand owl parrot)." Main Foyer, Science Museum.

"CAMOUFLAGE IN NATURE", color enlargements of some of nature's most ingenious masqueraders, continues in Lovell White Hall of Man and Nature. The photographs are the work of Edward S. Ross, Curator of Entomology.

NEWS and NOTES

ON OCTOBER 16, E. Morris Cox of San Francisco was elected Chairman of the Board of Trustees. He succeeded Alan J. Galloway who has held this important position for the past two years.

Mr. Cox, president of the firm of Dodge & Cox, investment managers, has a long and distinguished record of public service in community affairs. He has been a member of the Academy Board since 1962 and its treasurer from 1963.

Concurrently, two other active San Francisco business men were appointed Trustees. They are Mr. Philip S. Boone, Senior Vice President of the firm of Dancer-Fitzgerald-Sample, Inc., and Mr. Peter E. Haas, Executive Vice President and Director, Levi Strauss & Co.

THE ANNUAL BANQUET of the Fellows of the Academy was held Wednesday evening, November 1. A social hour in Steinhart Aquarium was followed by dinner in Simson African

Hall at which time the Fellows' Medal, the most distinguished award and recognition of scientific achievement the Academy can bestow, was awarded to Dr. G Dallas Hanna, Curator of Geology, who has held that position for some 48 years.

The featured speaker for the evening was Dr. Nicholas T. Mirov, Life Associate, Department of Geography, University of California at Berkeley, whose subject was "Russia Revisited After Fifty Years." A distinguished plant physiologist and expert on pine trees, Dr. Mirov returned to the Soviet Union with a group of American geographers during the past year.

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS from a letter from Dr. Edward S. Ross, Curator of Entomology, who is currently leading another "insect safari" to various parts of Africa. It is dated October 18 from a camp 15 miles west of Windhoek:

"Greetings from the land of peace and quiet. We are camped in a game park all alone except for a flock of ostriches bedded down for the night twenty-five feet away. By morning a herd of eland as tame as Jersey cows will surround us.

"We drive to Windhoek each day, getting ready for our next foray. Van Davis (a Fellow of the Academy) will arrive tomorrow afternoon and we will head out. Since I wrote, we spent about 20 days in the Namib Desert where much was accomplished. Each night was spent on the dunes photographing such goodies as mating geckos, dancing spiders, legless lizards and blind moles.

"We are going to return to the central Namib and then zigzag north to the Brandberg and Torra Bay (more dunes but with occasional rhino and lions which come down to the sea, drink and die). I'm hoping for a shot of a rhino atop a 500-foot dune!

"Then we go to Etosha Pan, entering west end and going the full length east. We will be the only visitors because the park is open to the public only during January and February. Today I will apply for permits to be exceptions.

"By early November we should strike out across the Kalahari and out of the excellent administration of the Republic of South Africa.

"Martha (Dr. Ross' daughter) is returning home on Friday and carrying 2,000 feet of exposed film, as well as a large, pugnacious Namib Desert chameleon (white — but turns black in anger)."

A New Policy For Membership Meetings

Beginning with the January 1968 monthly meeting, members of the Academy will be asked to present their membership cards before gaining entrance to Morrison Auditorium. This has been necessitated by the limited seating available coupled with the unfortunate fact that groups of non-members, in the past, have pre-empted seats rightfully belonging to members.

This new arrangement, however, is not without latitude for it is our earnest desire to welcome everyone who is or might become interested in the Academy. Growth is our only source of strength.

Following is a list of explanatory remarks which we hope will clarify various points:

(1) A regular membership is considered to include both husband and wife.

(2) All other categories of membership are considered to include all members of a single family.

(3) On payment of Academy dues for 1968, all members will be sent five guest tickets which will allow them to invite friends to the meetings. If, during the course of the year, additional guest tickets are desired, they may be had by writing the Membership Secretary, California Academy of Sciences, Golden Gate Park, San Francisco 94118.

(4) Processing annual dues (due in January) is a lengthy process, thus 1967 membership cards will be honored through the March meeting, 1968.

With the January meeting, there will be only one presentation which is scheduled for 8:00 p.m. with attendance available on a "first-come first-served" basis. Overflow audiences will be invited to attend, without tickets, the Morrison Planetarium show.

We regret these new limitations but presently we have no alternatives. We thank you for your understanding cooperation.

Mrs. Joseph A. Moore, Jr.

Mrs. JOSEPH A. MOORE, Jr.
Membership Chairman
Board of Trustees

Ref.
Q 11
C22
no. 336